

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for directing communication between a subscriber station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:
determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;
determining at the subscriber station a quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and
directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric.
2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.
3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining at the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining a quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises:

ascertaining at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and

processing at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the each sector in the subscriber station's list.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said ascertaining at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises ascertaining at the subscriber station a reverse power control bit at a reverse power control channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said processing at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises filtering said ascertained signal value by a filter with a pre-determined time constant.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric comprises:

assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a current serving sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric; and

directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a current serving sector in accordance with said

determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric comprises:

- comparing a forward link quality metric for a non-serving sector with a forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by a first threshold;

- comparing a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector with a second threshold;

- comparing a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector with the second threshold; and

- determining whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving sector in accordance with results of said comparisons.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said determining whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving sector in accordance with results of said comparisons comprises:

- increasing credits of the non-serving sector by a first pre-determined amount if:

- the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is greater than the second threshold; or if:

- the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is less than the second threshold and the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is greater than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by the first threshold; and

- decreasing credits of the non-serving sector by a second pre-determined amount if:

- the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is less than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by ~~[[a]]~~ the first threshold; or if:

- the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector is greater than the second threshold.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits comprises:

determining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third threshold; and

directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest of said assigned credits.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising remaining in communication with the current serving sector otherwise.

16. (Original) An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to:

determine at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;

determine at the subscriber station a quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric.

17. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

18. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor is configured to determine at the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link.

19. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said processor is configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

20. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said processor is configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

21. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor is configured to determine a quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and

process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the each sector in the subscriber station's list.

22. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said processor is configured to ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to ascertain at

the subscriber station a reverse power control bit at a reverse power control channel of the forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list.

23. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said processor is configured to process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to filter said ascertained signal value by a filter with a pre-determined time constant.

24. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a current serving sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric; and

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits.

25. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said processor is configured to assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except a current serving sector in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

compare a forward link quality metric for a non-serving sector with a forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by a first threshold;

compare a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector with a second threshold;

compare a quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector with the second threshold; and

determine whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving sector in accordance with results of said comparisons.

26. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said processor is configured to determine whether to increase or decrease credits of the non-serving sector in accordance with results of said comparisons by executing a set of instructions to:

increase credits of the non-serving sector by a first pre-determined amount if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is greater than the second threshold; or if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector is less than the second threshold and the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the current serving sector is less than the second threshold and the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is greater than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by the first threshold; and

decrease credits of the non-serving sector by a second pre-determined amount if:

the forward link quality metric for the non-serving sector is less than the forward link quality metric for the current serving sector modified by a first threshold; or if:

the quality related to a reverse link quality metric of the non-serving sector is greater than the second threshold.

27. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits by executing a set of instructions to:

determine sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third threshold; and

direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest of said assigned credits.

28. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to

a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

29. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

30. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to remain in communication with the current serving sector otherwise.

31. (Original) An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

means for determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;

means for determining at the subscriber station a quality related to a reverse link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list; and

means for directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics and said determined qualities related to a reverse link quality metric.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for directing communication between a subscriber station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;

determining a forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the subscriber station's list; assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said forward link quality metric and said forward link de-rating value; and

directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said at least one determined forward link de-rating value.

33. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said data communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

34. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said determining at the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link.

35. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

36. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link comprises measuring a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

37. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said determining a forward link de-rating value of at least one sector in the subscriber station's list comprises:

ascertaining at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list;

processing at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list; and

determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list.

38. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said ascertaining at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for the at least one

sector in the subscriber station's list comprises ascertaining at the subscriber station a reverse power control bit at a reverse power control channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list.

39. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said processing at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list comprises filtering said ascertained signal value by a filter with a pre-determined time constant.

40. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first signal value and the forward link de-rating value.

41. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list comprises:

determining at the subscriber station a first reverse link quality metric in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first signal value and the first reverse link quality metric; and

determining at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between the first reverse link quality metric and the forward link de-rating value.

42. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises:

de-rating said determined forward link quality metric in accordance with said determined forward link de-rating value;

assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric; and
directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits.

43. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric comprises:

decreasing credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first threshold; and

increasing credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

44. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits comprises:

determining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second threshold; and

directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval elapsed from the last re-direction of communication.

45. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 44 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

46. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 44 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

47. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 44 further comprising:

ascertaining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third threshold; and

directing communication to a sector from said ascertained sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval failed to elapse from the last re-pointing.

48. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

49. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

50. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising remaining in a communication with a current serving sector otherwise.

51. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising:
determining a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and

wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics, said determined second reverse link quality metric, and said determined forward link de-rating value.

52. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein said determining a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list comprises:

ascertaining a second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and

determining the second reverse link quality metric in accordance with said ascertained second signal value for the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list.

53. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 52, wherein said ascertaining a second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list comprises ascertaining a DRC lock bit in a DRC channel of the forward link for the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list.

54. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 52 further comprising:
measuring at each sector a reverse link quality metric;
processing the reverse link quality metric to provide an indicator; and
providing the indicator on a forward link.

55. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 54, wherein said providing the indicator on a forward link comprises inserting the indicator into the second channel of the forward link.

56. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 51, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics, said determined second reverse link quality metric, and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises:

de-rating said determined forward link quality metrics in accordance with said determined forward link de-rating value;

assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric; and

directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric.

57. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric comprises:

decreasing credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first threshold; and

increasing credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

58. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric comprises continuing communication with the current serving sector if said determined second reverse link quality metric is sufficient.

59. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric comprises:

determining sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second threshold; and

directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if said determined second reverse link quality metric is insufficient.

60. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

61. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising directing communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

62. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising directing communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits if no sector has said assigned credits greater than the second threshold.

63. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 62 further comprising directing communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits and the highest processed signal value when at least two sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

64. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 62 further comprising directing communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits and the highest forward link quality metric when at least two sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

65. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

- means for determining at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;

- means for determining a forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the subscriber station's list;

- means for assigning credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said forward link quality metric and said forward link de-rating value; and

- means for directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said at least one determined forward link de-rating value.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for directing communication between a subscriber station and a plurality of sectors in a data communication system, comprising:

- a processor; and

- a storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to:

- determine at the subscriber station a forward link quality metric for each sector in the subscriber station's list;

determine a forward link de-rating value for at least one sector in the subscriber station's list;

assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said forward link quality metric and said forward link de-rating value; and

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said at least one determined forward link de-rating value.

67. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said data communication system comprises a wireless data communication system.

68. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said processor is configured to determine at the subscriber station a quality metric of a forward link for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link.

69. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said processor is configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of the forward link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link.

70. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein said processor is configured to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a pilot signal on the forward link by executing a set of instructions to measure a signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio of a non-continuous pilot signal on the forward link.

71. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said processor is configured to determine a forward link de-rating value of at least one sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list;

process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list; and

determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list.

72. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is configured to ascertain at the subscriber station a first signal value at a position in a first channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to ascertain at the subscriber station a reverse power control bit at a reverse power control channel of the forward link for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list.

73. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is configured to process at the subscriber station said ascertained first signal value for the at least one sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to filter said ascertained signal value by a filter with a pre-determined time constant.

74. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is configured to determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first signal value and the forward link de-rating value.

75. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 71, wherein said processor is configured to determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with said processed first signal value for each sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

determine at the subscriber station a first reverse link quality metric in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between said processed first signal value and the first reverse link quality metric; and

determine at the subscriber station the forward link de-rating value in accordance with a pre-determined relationship between the first reverse link quality metric and the forward link de-rating value.

76. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value by executing a set of instructions to:

de-rate said determined forward link quality metric in accordance with said determined forward link de-rating value;

assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric; and

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits.

77. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said processor is configured to assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

decrease credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first threshold; and

increase credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

78. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the

subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits by executing a set of instructions to:

determine sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second threshold; and

direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval elapsed from the last re-direction of communication.

79. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

80. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

81. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 78, wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to:

ascertain sectors with said assigned credits greater than a third threshold; and

direct communication to a sector from said ascertained sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if a time interval failed to elapse from the last re-pointing.

82. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

83. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to

a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

84. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 81 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to remain in a communication with a current serving sector otherwise.

85. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor [[to]] further comprises a set of instructions to:

determine a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and wherein said directing communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics and said determined forward link de-rating value comprises:

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward links quality metrics, said determined second reverse link quality metric, and said determined forward link de-rating value.

86. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein said processor is configured to determine a second reverse link quality metric of a current serving sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to:

ascertain a second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list; and

determine the second reverse link quality metric in accordance with said ascertained second signal value for the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list.

87. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein said processor is configured to ascertain a second signal value in a second channel of the forward link of the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list by executing a set of instructions to ascertain a DRC lock bit in a DRC channel of the forward link for the current serving sector in the subscriber station's list.

88. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 86 further comprising:
a second processor; and
a second storage medium coupled to the second processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the second processor to:
measure at each sector a reverse link quality metric;
process the reverse link quality metric to provide an indicator; and
provide the indicator on a forward link.

89. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 88, wherein said second processor is configured to providing the indicator on a forward link by executing a set of instructions to insert the indicator into the second channel of the forward link.

90. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said determined forward link quality metrics, said determined second reverse link quality metric, and said determined forward link de-rating value by executing a set of instructions to:

de-rate said determined forward link quality metrics in accordance with said determined forward link de-rating value;

assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric; and

direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric.

91. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said processor is configured to assign credits to each sector in the subscriber station's list except the sector currently serving the subscriber station in accordance with said de-rated forward link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

decrease credits of a sector by a first value if said de-rated forward link quality metric of the sector is greater than said de-rated forward link quality metric for a sector currently serving the subscriber station modified by a first threshold; and

increase credits of a sector by a second value otherwise.

92. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to continue communication with the current serving sector if said determined second reverse link quality metric is sufficient.

93. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said processor is configured to direct communication between the subscriber station and one sector from the sectors in the subscriber station's list in accordance with said assigned credits and said determined second reverse link quality metric by executing a set of instructions to:

determine sectors with said assigned credits greater than a second threshold; and

direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest of said assigned credits if said determined second reverse link quality metric is insufficient.

94. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 93 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest processed signal value when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

95. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 93 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector from said determined sectors with the highest forward link quality metric when at least two of said determined sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

96. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 93 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits if no sector has said assigned credits greater than the second threshold.

97. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 96 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits and the highest processed signal value when at least two sectors have equal highest assigned credits.

98. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 96 wherein the set of instructions executable by the processor to further comprises a set of instructions to direct communication to a sector with the highest assigned credits and the highest forward link quality metric when at least two sectors have equal highest assigned credits.